(b) the total foreign exchange earned by the units in the EPZs and SEZs in 2001-2002 and the percentage it constitutes out of the total export earnings;

(c) the total number of workers in the Export Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones and the number of women workers out of these; and

(d) how many of these workers are regular and how many are contract/ temporary/seasonal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) At present there are 666 units in operation in eight functioning Export Processing Zones (EPZs)/Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

(b) Exports by units in EPZs/SEZs/ during 2001-2002 was of the order of Rs. 9,189.55 crores, which constituted about 4.5% of the total exports of the country.

(c) The details of employment provided by EPZs/SEZs units are as under:

Male	Female	Total
54,461	32,185	86,646

(d) The details of employment of regular/contract/temporary workers by the units in zones are not maintained.

Diamond and jewellery export

1211. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian diamond and jewellery exports have witnessed a healthy growth of 30 per cent inspite of the 11th September event in the USA;

(b) whether China's diamond industry is growing and is nibbling away at India's share of the world market; and

(c) if so, the action Government are taking to ensure that the growing competitiveness from China does not adversely affect our position of eminence in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the information provided by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Mumbai (a representative autonomous body of the trade, sponsored by the Ministry of

Commerce and Commerce & Industry) during the current financial year (April to October, 2002) exports of diamond and jewellery have recorded a growth of 29% and 35% respectively over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Chinese diamond industry is understood to be growing steadily and the developing countries including India may face competition from China in world diamond trade.

(c) As per a study conducted by Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, (GJEPC), Mumbai, India has the potential of increasing its market share of export of cut and polished diamonds to 60% by value by the year 2005. The Medium Term Export Strategy of the Government for the year 2002-07 encompasses forging strategic alliances with producers of rough diamonds and retailers of jewellery, encouraging forward integration into gemstone jewellery, hallmarking and certifying goods towards development of Indian brand in jewellery and developing market intelligence focusing on USA, Japan and France. In the Export-Import Policy effective from 1st April, 2002, custom duty on import of rough diamonds has been reduced to 0%. Exploring the possibility of direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries is an ongoing exercise. Funds have been provided to create training infrastructure in the gem and jewellery sector by setting up an institute for jewellery design and manufacture under the auspices of the Indian diamond Institute at Surat. To impart skills in designing in jewellery sector, Government has provided financial assistance to set up Indian Institute of Gem and Jewellery at Mumbai. For promotion of India's gem and jewellery abroad, publicity campaign, participation in international fairs, buyers and sellers meets are organised every year.

Sale of Laboratory Produced Stones (LPS)

1212. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Are You Sure Your Diamonds Are Real", which appreared in the Times of India, New Delhi dated the 18th September, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Laboratory Produced Stones (LPS) from Russia and United States are flooding the Indian market and some jewellers are selling them as diamonds;